

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 /023 W
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R 130905Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0851
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS DOHA 1074

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP ECRE QA
SUBJ: UMM SAID HOUSING PROJECT POSTPONED

REF: DOHA 0350

1. REFTEL REPORTED INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 1200 HOUSING UNITS AT UMM SAID, SOUTH OF DOHA. IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION, OVER 60 FIRMS, INCLUDING NUMBER FROM US, SUBMITTED PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS BEFORE APRIL 30 DEADLINE. SINCE THEN, NO FURTHER STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY GOQ TO SELECT CONTRACTOR OR PROCEED WITH PROJECT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS STATED THAT QUALIFICATIONS OF INTERESTED FIRMS WERE "UNDER STUDY", BUT PREVAILING OPINION IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN THAT GOQ UNABLE TO MAKE COMPETENT TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF PLETHORA OF SKILLS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES OFFERED BY COMPETING FIRMS.

2. WE INFORMED BY LOCAL MANAGER OF UK CONSULTANTS LLEWELYN DAVIES AND PARTNERS THAT FIRM HAS BEEN ASKED BY GOQ TO OFFER PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF HOUSING NEEDS IN QATAR INCLUDING EVALUATION OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. MANAGER SAID FIRM WOULD ALSO SORT OUT PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR UMM SAID PROJECT IF REQUESTED. HE SAID STUDY WOULD TAKE 3-4 MONTHS AND NOTED THAT SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR PROJECT PROBABLY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EARLY 1976.

3. FOR ABU DHABI: REQUEST YOU INFORM STEVE BARNDOLLAR, GULF HOUSING, DUBAI FOR FURTHER DELAY IN PROJECT.

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4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS STUDY REQUESTED BY GOQ IS IDENTICAL

TO ONE PROPOSED BY AID OFFICE OF HOUSING IN JANUARY, 1975.
AID PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED AFTER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY GOQ.
INCLUDED OFFER OF CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TEAM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM. AFTER CONSIDERABLE
FOOT DRAGGING WE WERE INFORMED BY GOQ THAT DUE TO NECESSITY OF
RELIEVING HOUSING SHORTAGE IMMEDIATELY, DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN
TO LAUNCH UMM SAID PROJECT WITHOUT LUXURY OF DETAILED ADVANCE
PLANNING. EVIDENTLY GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND ENSUING JUMBLE OF
PROPOSALS SO CONFUSING THAT IT HAS TURNED AGAIN TO IDEA OF LONG-
RANGE PLANNING AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING COHERENT FRAMEWORK
FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS - ALMOST A YEAR AFTER GOQ FIRST EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN BUILDING INDUSTRIES CONSULTANT (KUWAIT 4882 - 1974).
YOUNG

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